

Clinical Laboratory Update

September 2020

www.milwaukee.gov/healthlab

Phone: (414) 286-3526

Fax: (414) 286-5098

From the desk of the Public Health Laboratory Director

MHDL validates Flu/COVID multiplex

The MHD Laboratory has completed validation of the [CDC's Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 \(Flu SC2\) diagnostic multiplex assay](#). We expect to release more details soon in coordination with the Wisconsin Division of Public Health (DPH), including how to collect and submit specimens to MHDL for both flu and COVID-19 testing. Please stay tuned for more information!

MHDL staff co-author publication on Milwaukee's SURRG project

APHL Lab Matters recently published the [second article](#) in a two-part series on MHDL and WI DPH's Strengthening U.S. Response to Resistant Gonorrhea (SURRG) grant partnership, which recently entered its fifth year.

MHDL launches COVID-19 video

Lab staff recently worked with a media firm to capture a behind-the-scenes look at [COVID-19 testing at MHDL](#). Follow the link to check out the video and learn more about Milwaukee PHL's role in COVID-19 response.

Influenza and other respiratory virus seasonal response during COVID-19

MHDL reminds partners to be mindful of timely testing and prevention guidelines for influenza and other respiratory diseases along with COVID-19 during 2020-2021 season. Immunization services to protect individuals from vaccine-preventable diseases and outbreaks will be critical to reduce the burden of respiratory illness during flu season, according to the CDC. In addition to following [CDC 2020-21 flu season recommendations](#), continued use of face covering for COVID-19 will help reduce incidents of other respiratory infections.

Data for COVID-19 testing performed at MHDL during the month of September is included as a supplement to this report.

Links to related information & data:

[MHDL COVID-19 Testing website](#)

[MHD COVID-19 Situation](#)

[WSLH Laboratory Surveillance Report](#)

Sexually Transmitted Infections

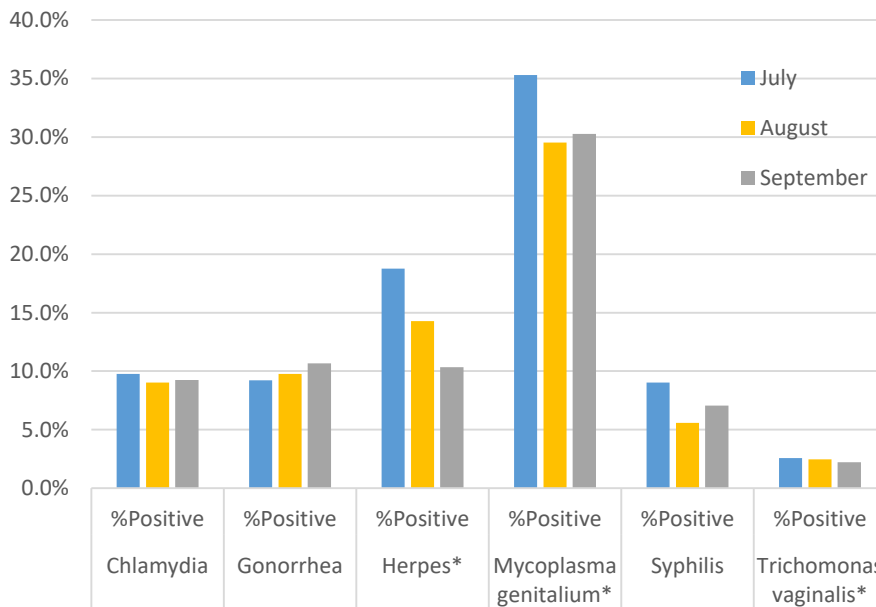


Figure 1: Percent positivity for specimens screened using molecular or serological assays for the given organism.

*Not reportable as per WI DHS 145.04 (3) (a)

Respiratory Infections

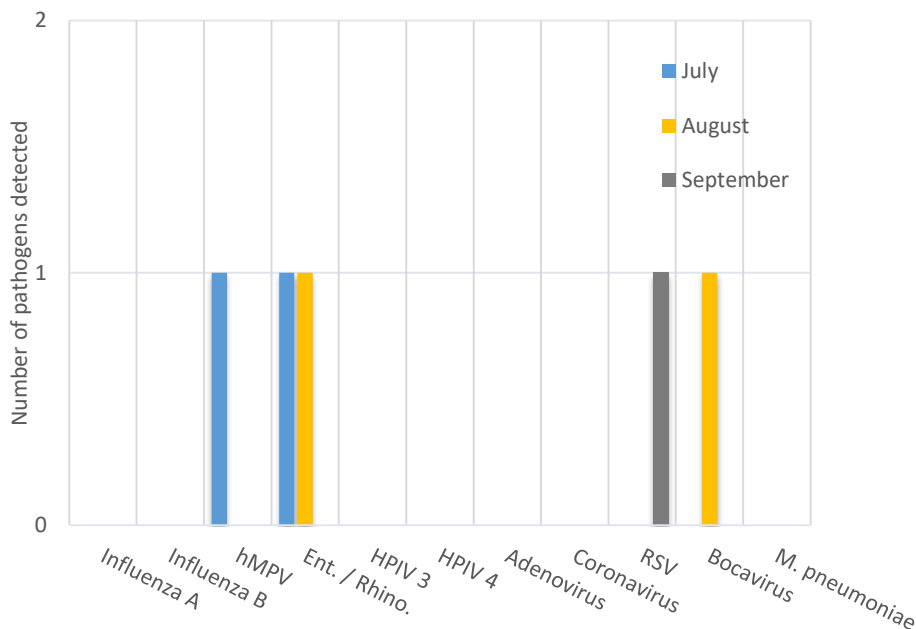


Figure 2: Respiratory pathogens detected using a Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP) and/or RT-PCR Influenza assay.

Connect with your health department:



New HIV Infections

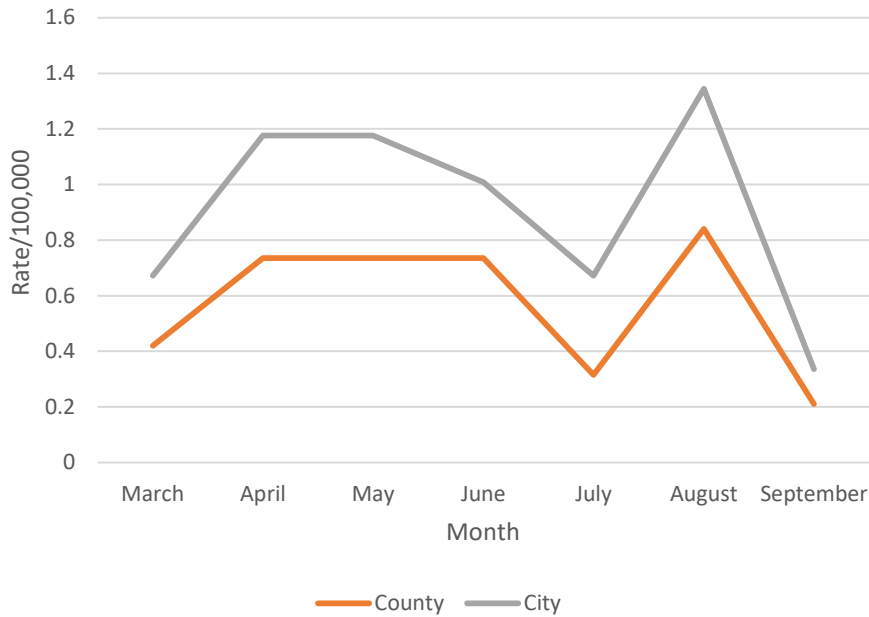


Figure 3: Monthly comparison of rate of new HIV infections in Milwaukee County and the City of Milwaukee, using data obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Numbers are provisional and subject to change.

For statewide HIV data, visit:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hiv/data.htm>

Syphilis Surveillance

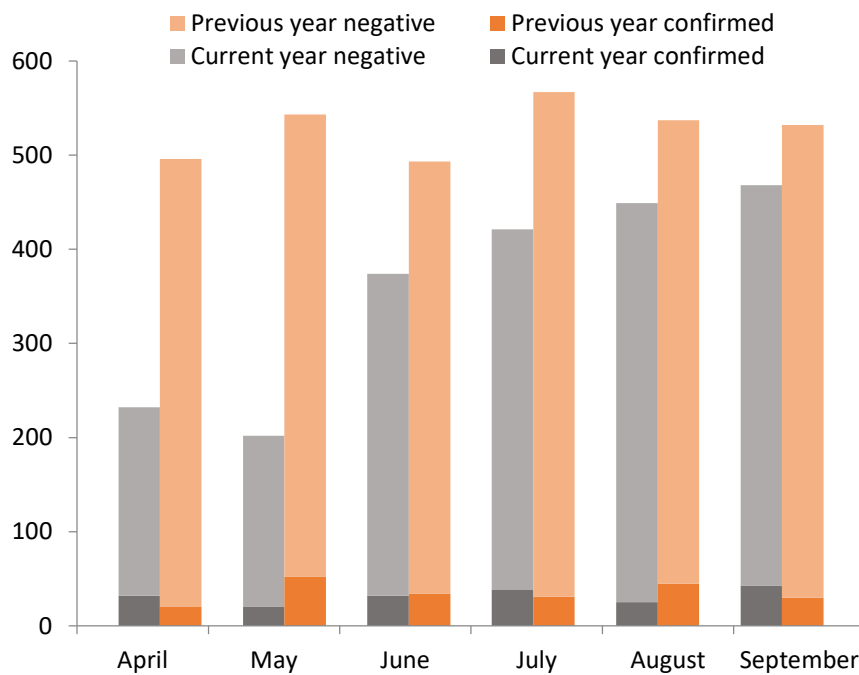


Figure 4: Monthly comparison of syphilis data with year over year comparisons.

Number of specimens screened at MHD, darker bars represent confirmed tests.

Gonorrhea Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

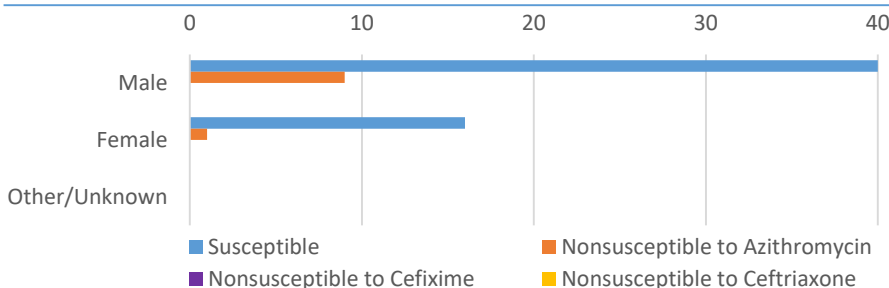


Figure 5: Antibiotic susceptibility profile of Gonorrhea isolates identified in males and females. In September 2020, 10 of 66 cultures tested were found to be nonsusceptible to Azithromycin according to CLSI guidelines. MHD tests for antibiotic resistance to Azithromycin, Ceftriaxone, Cefixime and Gentamicin.

Sexually Transmitted Infections by Source

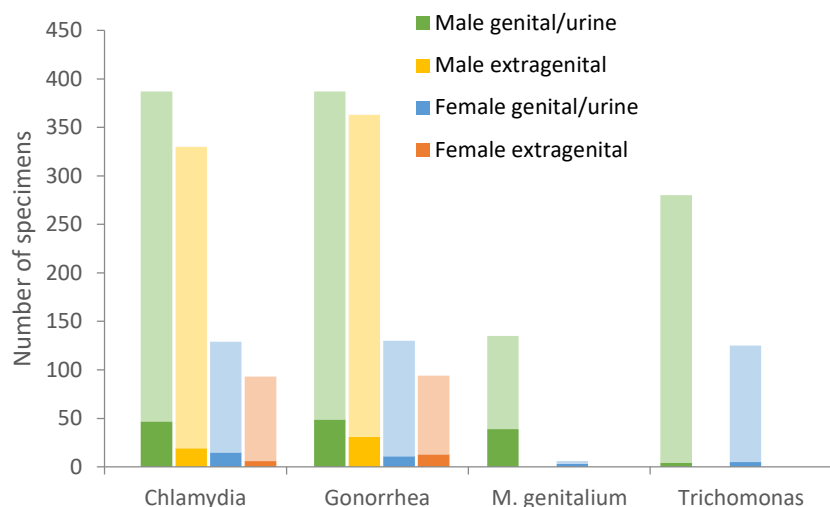


Figure 6: Distribution of STIs detected using NAAT. In September 2020, 9.2% of male and 9.5% of female specimens screened were positive for Chlamydia. 10.7% of male and 10.7% of female specimens were positive for Gonorrhea. 28.9% of male and 3 of the 6 female specimens were positive for *M. genitalium*. 1.4% of male specimens and 4.0% of female specimens were positive for *Trichomonas*.

Note: Darker bars indicate positive specimens.

Viral Surveillance

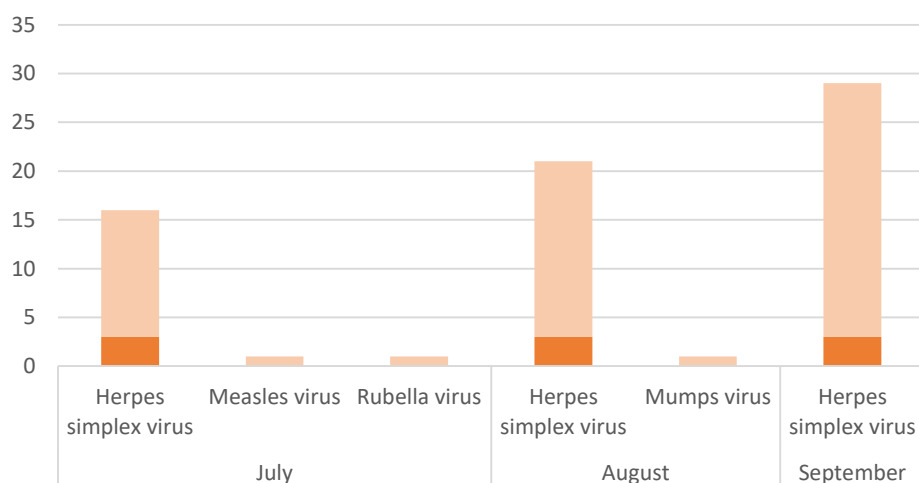


Figure 7: Specimens tested using molecular methods.

Note: Height of bar indicates number of specimens tested.

Darker bars indicate DNA/RNA detected by virus culture, real-time PCR and/or nucleotide sequencing analysis.

Legionella Testing

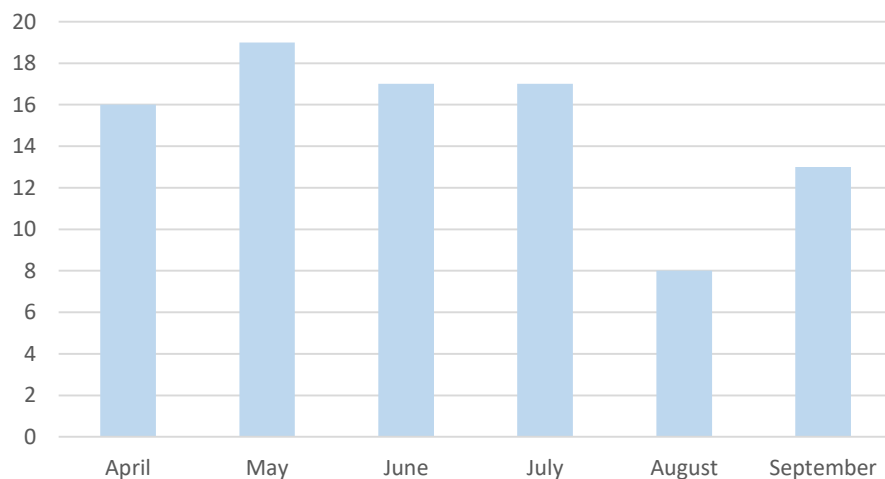


Figure 8: Clinical specimens tested using culture and molecular methods.

*MHDL is one of the CDC ELITE certified sites for environmental *Legionella* testing. See the Winter 2019 issue of the [APHL Bridges newsletter](#) for more information.

Note: Darker bars indicate confirmed Legionella pneumophila by culture and/or real-time PCR. (There were no positives in the period shown)